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Brian R Naranjo 01/29/2002 06:30:38 PM From DB/inbox: Brian R Naranjo

B1, 1.4(D)

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

January 29, 2002

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE

Action: INR

From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 229 - ROUTINE)

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

Captions: None

Subject: CHURCH TO CHAVEZ: NO THANKS

Ref: None

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 28 JAN 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2006 200304421

CLASSIFIED BY AMEMBASSADOR DONNA J. HRINAK. REASONS 1.5 (B & D.)

1. (C) SUMMARY: On January 28, the Venezuelan Catholic Bishops' Conference rejected an invitation from President Chavez for a private meeting. Citing "recent acts, judgments, and degrading expressions" by Chavez, "as totally inadmissible," the Churchmen judged this hostility as aimed not only at the Cardinal and the Papal Nuncio, but also "at the Church itself, that is to say, the People of God, which corresponds to the immense majority of the Venezuelan people."

END SUMMARY.

THE CHURCH REBUFFS CHAVEZ

2. (U) On January 28, the Venezuelan Episcopal (Catholic Bishops') Conference rejected an invitation from President Chavez for a private meeting. Citing "recent acts, judgments, and degrading expressions" by Chavez and some members of his government, "as totally inadmissible," the Churchmen judged this hostility as aimed at not only the Cardinal and the Papal Nuncio, but also "at the Church itself, that is to say, the People of God, which corresponds to the immense majority of the Venezuelan people." This decision comes after Chavez on January 24 called the Catholic Church "a tumor" and made subsequent comments in his "Alo Presidente" show in a similar vein.

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Hrinak.

Additional Addressees:
None

cc:

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USINT HAVANA

Distribution:

TED4945
ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	NPAT-00	SAS-00	/003W				

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4635
INFO CIA WASHDC

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